

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 EUR-25 /143 W

----- 089853

R 301236Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5305

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13712

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG NKP
THAILAND FROM BIEN HOA JULY 27 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE BIEN HOA 337

LIMDIS

E.O. 1162:GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 WEEKLY SITREP-JULY 22-28, 1973

1. WAR IN MR3 CONTINUED NEAR HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE JANUARY CEASE-
FIRE. THERE WERE 185 MILITARY CLASHES REPORTED BY MR3 G2
FOR WEEK ENDING 0800 JULY 27, DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM PREVIOUS WEEK'S
199, BUT INTENSITY AND MAGNITUDE OF CLASHES INCREASED. TOTAL
GVN CASUALTIES FOR WEEK WERE REPORTED AS 54 KILLED (FOUR CIVILIAN),
166 WOUNDED (12 CIVILIANS) AND FIVE MISSING IN ACTION. COMMUNIST
LOSSES WERE 163 KIA, THREE CAPTURED, ONE SUSPECT DETAINED, AND
16 RALLIERS TO THE GVN. OF 185 ENGAGEMENTS, 43 WERE GROUND
ATTACKS (THREE INVOLVING ESTIMATED COMPANY SIZE COMMUNIST FORCES),
92 ATTACKS BY FIRE (13 OVER 20 ROUNDS), SIX COMBINED GROUND AND
FIRE ATTACKS, FOUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRINGS (DAMAGED TWO LIGHT
OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT), ONE TERRORIST ATTACK, ONE RAIL INTERDIC-
TION, AND 34 DETONATIONS OF GRENADES AND MINES (SIX CIVILIANS).
BINH DUONG HAD 67 CLASHES, BINH LONG 28, PHUOC LONG 17, HAU NGHIA
14, PHUOC TUY 13, LONG KHANH 11, LONG AN AND TAY NINH TEN EACH,
GIA DINH SEVEN, BIEN HOA SIX AND BINH TUY TWO.

2. COMMUNIST FORCES (THE 141ST, 165TH AND 209TH NVA REGIMENT)

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KEPT INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1A CLOSED BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU

GIAO IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, AND SHELLLED AND ATTACKED ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH AND 5TH ARVN DIVISIONS LOCATED ALONG 1A BOTH BELOW AND ABOVE THE PHU GIAO. AT BEGINNING OF WEEK MR3 CG LTG MINH WAS EXPRESSING TO CONGEN HIS DETERMINATION TO OPEN 1A FOR MILITARY CONVOY TO PHUOC BINH-SONG BE AREA OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, AFTER "PUNISHING" THE CONCENTRATED ENEMY FORCES IN THE PHU GIAO AREA; BY END OF WEEK MR3 G2 LTC BINH WAS MORE MODESTLY TELLING DAO/RLO THAT RVNAF WAS HOPING TO REOPEN 1A TO PHU GIAO "SOON", WHILE RESUPPLYING PHUOC BINH-SONG BE BY AIR AND BY CONVOY UP THE BACK WAY THROUGH MR2 WHICH WAS PLANNED "VERY SOON". WE UNDERSTAND THAT PLANNING FOR CONVOY IS BEING SCALED DOWN IN ANTICIPATION OF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE TO IT. MOST OF REPORTED PHUOC LONG INCIDENTS WERE EITHER SHELLINGS OF PHUOC BINH AIR-FIELD WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVING AIRLIFT OF SUPPLIES, OR SHELLING OR HARASSMENT OF RANGER UNITS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 BETWEEN DONG XOAI AND JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 311. MANY OF BINH LONG INCIDENTS WERE IN CHON THANH AREA, AND APPEARED ALSO TO BE REALTED TO 1A FIGHTING. COMMUNISTS APPEAR TO BE DETERMINED TO PREVENT RESUPPLY OF PHUOC BINH-SONG BE, AND HOPING TO SLICE OFF ALL OF NORTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE TO ADD TO LARGE AREA THEY OCCUPY IN NORTHERN MR3.

3. CANADIAN ICCS REGION V DELEGATES LEFT THIS REGION JULY 26 FOR SAIGON AND A PLANNED JULY 31 RETURN TO CANADA. ON JULY 25 ICCS V SUSPENDED ALL ITS ACTIVITIES PENDING CANADA'S REPLACEMENT, OR A DETERMINATION BY ICCS SAIGON ON HOW THEY SHOULD OPERATE WITHOUT A FOURTH. CANDEL V CHIEF COL. MORROW LEFT THE REGION WITH HARD WORDS FOR THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS, CONSULATE GENERAL "CIA AGENTS", PA&E'S PERFORMANCE AS ICCS CONTRACTOR, INDONESIAN ABILITY TO TAKE OVER CANADIANS' AGRESSIVE AND ACTIVIST ROLE, AND QUALITY OF MOST RVNAF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS.

4. INDODEL V IS BEGINNING COMPLETE TURNOVER WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED SOME TIME IN AUGUST; NEW CHIEF DEL COL. DADING, IS SAID TO BE INFANTRY OFFICER WITH SOME ACHIEVEMENTS IN STAMPING OUT COMMUNIST INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIS AREA OF OPERATIONS IN INDONESIA. BUT METHODS HE USED THERE MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE IN ICCS.

5. DURING WEEK MR3 CONTINUED EFFORTS, UNDER COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, TO ROTATE 92ND RANGERS OUT OF TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP. MR3 G2 LTC BINH TOLD DAO/RLO THAT SOME HELICOPTERS HAD LANDED AND TAKEN OFF FROM TONLE CHAM, WHILE OTHERS HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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DRIVEN OFF, SO ROTATION IS "NOT YET COMPLETED"; BUT BINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD RRO JULY 26 THAT NO RPT NO HELICOPTERS HAD LANDED THERE THIS WEEK.

6. EXCHAGES OF CIVILAIN AND A FEW MILITARY DETAINEES IN THIS REGION, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23-28, WERE ONLY PARTIALLY COMPLETED BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF THIEN NGON AIRSTRIP TO SUPPORT WEIGHT OF VNAF AIRCRAFT CARRYING DETAINEES TO RELEASE POINT, AND PRG-ENGINEERED DEMONSTRATION BY SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE, MANY

ARMED, AT LOC NINH AGAINST GVN-HELD DETAINEES WHO CHOSE TO
REMAIN WITH GVN RATHER THAN GOING BACK TO PRG. GVN RETURNED
825 DETAINEES AND RECEIVED 26, COMPARED WITH SCHEDULED TOTALS
OF 4,364 AND 28 RESPECTIVELY.

WALKINSHAW

UNQUOTE

MARTIN

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